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Democracy and human rights

Human rights are universal and apply to everyone. They establish that all human beings, irrespective of country, culture and context, are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Democracy policy includes general elections, measures to strengthen and protect the individual's opportunities for influence, and measures to promote and guarantee respect for human rights. Human rights, democracy and the rule of law will also permeate all Swedish foreign policy.

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News about democracy and human rights

The following list contains news items and published documents, such as press releases, government bills or proposals referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration. It is pre-filtered to display content tagged with the relevant area. The list can be further filtered to help you find what you are interested in.

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Government increases support to vulnerable and persecuted journalists

The Government has decided to support the Reporters Shield initiative with SEK 5 million over a two-year period. Reporters Shield is a new long-term support programme that provides legal support to journalists and other media actors operating in repressive environments when they are targeted by baseless lawsuits.

Published 16 July 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Action programme against men's violence against women, domestic violence and honour-based violence and oppression

The Government is now presenting an action programme to prevent and combat men's violence against women, domestic violence, honour-based violence and oppression, and prostitution and human trafficking for the period 2024–2026. The programme contains over 130 initiatives and measures to be undertaken on a broad front at national, regional and local level. The efforts will also be strengthened in four special priority areas for development.

Published 24 June 2024 · Press release from Acko Ankarberg Johansson, Gunnar Strömmer, Paulina Brandberg, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Meeting of task force for Jewish life in Sweden

On Tuesday 4 June, the task force for Jewish life in Sweden held its fourth meeting, which focused on education. Invited representatives of schools, universities, other higher education institutions and liberal adult education attended the meeting.

Published 20 June 2024 · Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Prime Minister's Office

Sweden's regional strategy for the Syria crisis 2024–2026

This regional strategy for the Syria crisis forms part of Sweden's overall development and foreign policy and will help to strengthen local resilience among the Syrian population, Syrian refugees and vulnerable groups in the refugee-hosting communities of neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye, all of which are major regional recipients of Syrian refugees.

Published 20 June 2024 · International development cooperation strategies from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Innocent Swedes now back home after imprisonment in Iran

Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi, the two Swedish citizens wrongfully imprisoned in Iran, have come home to Sweden.

Published 17 June 2024 · Article from Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister's Office

Strategy for international civilian crisis management and peace promotion 2024–2028

Sweden's strategy for civilian crisis management and peace promotion is a part of the governance of Sweden's collective development, foreign and security policy. The strategy will contribute to strengthening the multilateral organisations' capability to prevent, predict, manage and resolve crises and conflicts and help promote sustainable peace, security, democracy and increased respect for human rights and freedoms and the rule of law.

 $\textbf{Published 07 June 2024} \cdot \underline{\textbf{International development cooperation strategies}} \text{ from } \underline{\textbf{Ministry for Foreign Affairs}}$

Government adopts new regional strategy for Syria crisis

The Government has adopted a new regional strategy for the Syria crisis. It comprises SEK 880 million over three years and is being implemented by Sida. Sweden's engagement is aimed at supporting the Syrian population in Syria, Syrian refugees and vulnerable groups in host societies in the neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye.

Published 07 June 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

EU adopts new sanctions regime against repression in Russia

The EU has adopted a new sanctions regime in response to increasing political repression in Russia. In light of the decision, 19 natural persons and one entity have been added to the sanctions list.

Published 28 May 2024 · Press release from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Major conference on Belarus in Stockholm on 21-22 May

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies have organised a conference on Belarus to strengthen dialogue with Belarusian democratic forces in exile.

Published 21 May 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell, Parisa Liljestrand, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture

Imprisoned trade union leader Sithar Chhim awarded Government's international prize for human rights and democracy

This year's Per Anger Prize went to Sithar Chhim, who fights for democracy and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Minister for Culture Parisa Liljestrand presented the award on 25 April during a ceremony at the Living History Forum.

Published 10 May 2024 · Article from Parisa Liljestrand, Ministry of Culture

We are now increasing aid for press freedom - more should follow suit

Today, on World Press Freedom Day, the Government announced that it is expanding and deepening our work for press freedom around the world through several key actors. Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell and Minister for Culture Parisa Liljestrand, opinion piece, Expressen, 3 May 2024.

Published 03 May 2024 · Opinion piece from Johan Forssell, Parisa Liljestrand, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture

Speech by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson at the Summit for Democracy 2024

Speech by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson at the Summit for Democracy in Seoul, South Korea, 20 March 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 27 March 2024 · Speech from Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister's Office

Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation activities in the areas of human rights and freedoms, democracy and the rule of law 2024–2028

The objective of Sweden's international development assistance is to create preconditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression. Internationally agreed principles on aid and development effectiveness will be applied.

Published 20 March 2024 · International development cooperation strategies from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Speech by Carl-Oskar Bohlin at the Summit for Democracy 2024

Speech by Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin at the Summit for Democracy in Seoul, South Korea, 18 March 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 19 March 2024 \cdot Speech from Carl-Oskar Bohlin, Ministry of Defence

Strategy for democracy support through Swedish party-affiliated organisations 2024–2027

Published 18 March 2024 · International development cooperation strategies, Report from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

National Statement delivered by Minister for Gender Equality and Working Life Paulina Brandberg at the 68th Session of the Commission on Status of Women

National Statement delivered by Minister for Gender Equality and Working Life Paulina Brandberg, at the 68th Session of the Commission on Status of Women, New York, 12 March 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 13 March 2024 · Speech from Paulina Brandberg, Ministry of Employment

HRH Crown Princess Victoria visits Bangladesh with Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell

The visit to Bangladesh will take place on 18–21 March on the occasion of HRH The Crown Princess's role as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP Assistant Secretary General Ulrika Modéer will also take part.

Published 12 March 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Proposal for a national reporting and follow-up system for abducted children and adults

The Swedish Gender Equality Agency has been tasked with sharing knowledge about honour-based violence and oppression in connection with stays abroad. The Government has now also tasked the Agency with analyzing and presenting proposals for a national reporting and follow-up system for cases where a child or adult has been taken abroad. This involves determining the scope of the problem and establishing an approach to systematic follow-up.

Published 12 March 2024 · Press release from Camilla Waltersson Grönvall, Paulina Brandberg, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Paulina Brandberg takes part in UN session focusing on economic empowerment

On 10–16 March, Minister for Gender Equality Paulina Brandberg is taking part in the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), also known as the UN women's commission, in New York. The theme of this year's session is combating poverty and how institutions and financing can be strengthened from a gender equality perspective. Ms Brandberg is also hosting the activities arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers, of which Sweden is holding the Presidency in 2024. Ms Brandberg will hold two policy speeches: Sweden's policy speech and a policy speech for an LGBTI Core Group that includes Sweden.

Published 11 March 2024 · Press release from Paulina Brandberg, Ministry of Employment

Statement by the UN LGBTI Core Group by Minister for Gender Equality and Working Life Paulina Brandberg, at the 68th Session of the Commission on Status of Women

Statement by Minister for Gender Equality and Working Life Paulina Brandberg, at the 68th Session of the Commission on Status of Women, New York, 11 March 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 11 March 2024 · Speech from Paulina Brandberg, Ministry of Employment

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